

Boatman Lake Land Exchange – Summary of Proposal



Boatman Lake Claim Group lies along the east side of Alturas No. 2 Mountain, between Harris Lake and Boatman Lake. Above, left, is a view southwest across Harris Lake to the claim group, which lies on the forested slope beyond the lake, up to the ridgetop, above timberline. Above, right, is a view along the ridge on the Boatman Claim Group, looking west toward the peak of Alturas No. 2 Mountain (10,550 ft. elevation).

Purpose and Need:

The Boatman Lake Claim Group lies wholly within the East Pioneer Roadless Area No. 1-008D, adjacent to the Torrey Mountain Proposed Wilderness. The Boatman mining claims were patented in 1914 and 1916, but little evidence of mining activity remains today. There is no road or trail access to the claims; the closest road is Mule Creek Road, No. 7400, at Minneopa Lake Trailhead, about a mile east of the property. Under the 1986 Beaverhead Forest Plan, the area surrounding the Boatman mining claims is part of Minneopa Lake Recreation Area, which is managed to provide a wide array of dispersed recreation opportunities, with high wildlife and fisheries values. The property has “Class-A-Distinctive” scenery with high integrity, a natural-appearing landscape with little evidence of human alternation.

The purpose of the proposed land exchange is to return the Boatman Lake Claim Group to the National Forest System. The exchange is needed to consolidate ownership in the roadless area of the Southeastern Pioneer Mountains, to acquire valuable wildlife habitat and wetlands, to ensure that current activities and public use in the area can continue under the National Forest land management plan, and to protect National Forest resources by ensuring that future land uses on the Boatman Claim Group are compatible with management and uses of the surrounding National Forest.

The land exchange is needed now because the owners of the Boatman Lake Claim Group have stated their intention to develop a road to the property, and harvest timber and develop their land, if the land exchange is not concluded.

Based on experience in other areas of the National Forest, the consequences of such private development in remote areas such as Boatman Lake can be substantial.

Proposed Action

The Forest Service, United States Department of Agriculture, is considering an exchange of land with Monida Trust Inc., under the General Exchange Act of March 20, 1922, as amended (16 U.S.C. 485, 486).

The lands under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service being considered for exchange are described as isolated tracts of land within T. 7 N., R. 13 W., P.M.M., including portions of Sec. 29, and portions of Sec. 32, consisting of 125.65 acres, more or less. The Bureau of Land Management is surveying the area and will provide a Supplemental Plat, in order to finalize the legal description. These lands are located within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, in Granite County, about 2 miles east of Philipsburg, MT. Maps 2 and 4 show the Federal lands that would be conveyed to Monida Trust.

The Monida Trust Inc. lands are described as patented mining claims known as the Boatman Lake Claim Group in T. 5 S., R. 11 W, P.M.M., within Sections 16, 17, 18, 20, and 21, consisting of the Mayflower Lode (MS 9259), Morning Glory Lode (MS 9259), Baltic Lode (MS 9259), Rattlesnake Lode (MS 9259) Ridge Fraction Lode (MS 9298), Sunflower Lode (MS 9298), Cable Lode (MS 9298), and Big Slide Lode (MS 9298), consisting of 128.33 acres, more or less. These lands are located within the Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, in Beaverhead County, about 21 miles northwest of Dillon, Montana. Maps 3 and 5 show the lands to be acquired by the United States.

Any or all of the above-described lands may be exchanged if the values are equal. If the values are unequal, either party may equalize the values by making a cash payment. This payment may not exceed 25 percent of the value of the lands transferred out of Federal ownership.

The Forest Service proposes to acquire land including approximately 5 acres of floodplains or wetlands associated with the headwaters of Rattlesnake Creek, in the vicinity of Boatman Lake and Harris Lake. The Forest Service proposes to convey land including approximately 1 acre of floodplains or wetlands associated with Frost Creek, or Douglas Creek, which flow into Flint Creek.

Legal notice of the proposed land exchange will be published in the Montana Standard Newspaper (Butte, MT) four consecutive weeks: March 3, 10, 17, and 24, 2003. Persons claiming such properties or having valid objections to this proposed exchange must file their claims or objections with the Forest Supervisor, Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, 420 Barrett St.,

Dillon, MT 59725, within 15 days after the date of the last publication of this notice.

Maps

[Map 1. Vicinity of Proposed Boatman Lake Land Exchange, Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest, Granite County and Beaverhead County, Montana.](#)

[Map 2. Lands to be acquired by Monida Trust Inc.](#)

[Map 3. Lands to be acquired by the U.S.](#)

[Map 4. Boatman Land Exchange Topographic Map – Federal lands, T. 7 N. R. 13 W. P.M.M.](#)

[Map 5. Aerial photograph –Boatman Lake Claims.](#)

Tentative Schedule for Environmental Analysis

In addition to the legal notice discussed above, postcards will be sent to the Forest's mailing list of 700+ potentially interested parties. To remain on the mailing list for this project, interested parties must return the postcard or contact Katie Bump (address below) by April 8, 2003. April 8th will also mark the close of "scoping" period, during which comments to help identify issues to be addressed in the environmental analysis are welcome. An environmental assessment (EA) will be prepared, and posted on the website in April 2003. Legal notice of the availability of the EA will be published in the MT Standard (Butte, MT) newspaper, and postcards will be sent to the project mailing list. Comments on the EA would be accepted for 30 days from the legal notice publication date. It is anticipated that a decision could be made on the proposed land exchange in May 2003.

Contact Person

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**Map 1. Vicinity of Proposed
Boatman Lake Land Exchange**
Beaverhead-Deerlodge National Forest
Granite County and Beaverhead County
Montana

